

For example, the bill cuts by 30 percent the request for funding for international family planning programs, and contains the "global gag rule," despite valiant efforts to strike the language on the part of my colleagues Ms. LOWEY and Mr. GREENWOOD and many others. The "gag rule" provision prohibits private organizations in foreign countries to which we provide aid from participating in the political process of their own country using their own funds. This policy restricts the free speech of international non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, it undermines our own foreign policy objective of democracy promotion by placing restrictions on these organizations that would be unconstitutional in the United States. International family planning programs save the lives of women and children worldwide, reduce the incidence of abortion, and raise the social and economic well-being of women all over the globe.

The "global gag rule" is simply wrong, and—I believe—it is an embarrassment to us as a country.

I am also concerned about the bill's 40 percent cut in the Administration's request for contributions to multilateral development banks, which would result in substantial reductions in lending for health, clean water supplies, education programs, and infrastructure needed to reduce poverty in the world's poorest countries. Specifically, the bill cuts funding by 32 percent for the International Development Association, a main source of resources to battle AIDS, and additional cuts are made in funding for the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, and the Asian Development Fund.

Further, the bill doesn't provide sufficient funds to battle the global threat of tuberculosis, a disease that is endangering the health and lives of people all over the globe as deadly strains of multiple-drug resistant TB emerge. Tuberculosis kills two million people each year and is the greatest killer of people with HIV/AIDS worldwide, accounting for 40 percent of AIDS death in Asian and Africa. Especially as the HIV pandemic is exacerbating the rise of TB, I believe that the \$55 million provided in this bill for international TB control is insufficient.

Finally, I had hoped to vote to support an amendment for an additional \$15 million for the microcredit program, which provides small loans to the very poor for the start-up or expansion of small business ventures. These loans have helped to promote economic growth in some of the most poverty-stricken regions in the world. Unfortunately, this amendment was withdrawn, and I remain concerned that this bill doesn't provide sufficient funds of this important program.

In sum, Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed in the overall levels and in the priorities reflected in this legislation. We can and should do better, and because we haven't, I cannot support this bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the Fiscal Year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. I deeply believe that foreign assistance is a cornerstone of American foreign policy and diplomacy and I have serious concerns that passing a bill this underfunded would be detrimental to America's strategic interests around the world.

At \$2 billion below the President's request, this bill is irresponsible. The dramatic cuts to debt relief, HIV/AIDS funding, and the restric-

tions on international family planning programs, would imperil millions of women and children. The cuts to microcredit lending, International Development Assistance, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, would bleed dry projects that are a proven success for uplifting the poorest families in the world. The consequences of abandoning these programs are severe. Diseases know no borders. Overpopulation is a burden on the infrastructure of the entire world. Ignoring these issues is a threat to our own health and environment, and our national security.

At the outset, all the funding requested to support the Middle East Peace Process was included in this bill. Aid for Israel and the Middle East has always been my highest foreign aid priority, but the fact that these funds had to be compromised for critical increases to provide funding for debt relief and HIV/AIDS demonstrates how cash strapped this bill truly is. I am confident that all of the Foreign Military Financing for Middle East countries will be restored in conference, but we must also focus on increasing our commitment to the stability of other regions as well.

Assistance for the politically fragile states in the Former Soviet Republics, the Central Asian Republics, and the Balkans is drastically below the Administration's request. The bill slashes the Expanded Threat Reduction Initiative, which works to prevent the transfer of Russian nuclear technology to rogue states, for the second year in a row. Furthermore, the attack on debt relief translates into an assault on the Latin American and African countries that are struggling to implement drastic economic and democratic reforms.

There are some who believe that we can vote for this bill now and threaten to vote against it later if it does not improve. I believe we cannot settle for anything less than a better bill. This is only the beginning of the process and we should not have to settle for less before we go to conference with the Senate. The Republican leadership has crafted an untenable bill and I hope that my no vote on this point will strengthen the Administration's hand so it can get adequate funding for these important priorities, in addition to full funding for Israel and our Middle East priorities.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4811, the Fiscal Year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

There are many good things in this bill. For example, the aid to Israel included in the bill is an important step in maintaining Israel's security in a particularly unstable part of the world. It is paramount that we continue to stand by Israel, especially as historic peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians are simultaneously taking place just a few miles from this Capitol at Camp David.

Unfortunately, aid in the bill does not go far enough for other countries desperately in need, especially in the continents of Africa and Latin America. The bill contains only \$82 million of the \$472 million requested for debt relief. It will not even provide enough resources to enable two countries, Bolivia and Mozambique, who have met all necessary conditions to obtain debt relief, to procure it. If we are to have a stable world, we must help those countries that need it most. To do otherwise only invites conflict.

Of particular concern to me is the lack of adequate funding to fight the AIDS epidemic that is currently devastating the continent of

Africa, as well as other regions of the world. The bill only allocates \$202 million of the \$244 requested by the President to fight this horrible disease. We have turned out back on Africa for too long, and AIDS will not wait for us to find our consciences.

Finally, the bill includes a modified version of the anti-choice "Mexico City" policy, which prohibits funding of any private foreign non-governmental and multilateral organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change abortion laws in foreign countries.

For these reasons, and the fact that the bill is simply too underfunded, I oppose this bill.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, today I reluctantly voted against H.R. 4811, the Fiscal Year 2001 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act.

I did so for a very specific reason: this proposal contains some direct aid to the government of Colombia. In February of last year, a member of my district's Menominee Indian Nation was brutally murdered in that country. This woman, Ingrid Washinawatok, was in Colombia as part of a peaceful educational effort when she was kidnapped and killed by the Marxist terrorists of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Since Ms. Washinawatok's murder, Colombian President Andres Pastrana has said he is unwilling to extradite those responsible for her death to the United States to be tried under U.S. anti-terrorism laws. This refusal flies in the face of the cooperative relations our nations have enjoyed in the past and directly contradicts legislation I authored on the subject—legislation that passed the House last year by a unanimous vote. That measure called on the Colombian government to extradite Ms. Washinawatok's killers to the United States for trial as soon as possible.

I would also note that some months ago, I specifically asked U.S. Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey for help in this matter during a congressional hearing. He has not responded to the specific questions I posed to him.

In my opinion, if Colombia wishes to continue receiving significant U.S. aid, it must be willing to cooperate with us on key matters such as this. I hope that my vote against a foreign aid bill that otherwise has much in it to support will be seen as a modest message to Colombia. It is my further hope that withholding aid to the Colombians will push their government to reconsider the folly of their decision not to extradite the murdering terrorists who killed Ingrid Washinawatok.

I offer this statement today because this bill does contain several positive provisions that certainly deserve support. These positive measures include funding to help bring permanent peace and stability to the Middle East. In particular, this proposal would send needed aid to support those nations, like Israel, who share our democratic values and with whom we have forged loyal strategic friendship. This is funding I would have been pleased to support—unfortunately, the mitigating circumstances with regard to Colombia precluded me from doing so. While I could not vote to pass this bill in its current form, I hope my reasons and intentions are now more clear.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant support of this bill. While I will support this legislation, I am concerned that this bill shortchanges the United States' foreign policy initiatives. This bill makes large cuts in funding